(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for its suspension;

(c) whether it is also a fact that presently over 500 officers of the IES have been stagnating for lack of appropriate promotional norms and cadre review since its inception; and

(d) if so, what measures have been taken by Government for early redressal of their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Direct recruitment to the Indian Economic Service began in 1967. Recruitment to the Service has been deferred owing to stagnation/delay in promotion for direct recruits after implementation of Supreme Court judgement in February, 1986. Also appointment to vacancies in Grade IV are stayed as per orders passed by the Supreme Court in December 1987.

(c) The Indian Economic Service was constituted by aggregation of several posts located in various Ministries/Departments and carrying predominently economic functions. With participating Ministries/Departments offering lower level posts in much larger numbers, the Service acquired a wide base. Further as a result of implementation of Supreme Court judgement of February, 1986, a large number of promotee officers were inducted into the Service, affecting the promotion prospects of Service officers. Various proposals to restructure the cadre by further augmentation of middle and top levels have been recently considered by the IES Board.

(d) Amongst the significant measures are merger of Grade I and Grade II levels by upgradation of the latter, upgradation of some posts from Grade III level to Grade I level, strengthening of middle and top level by enadrement of additional posts, and decision to encadre posts above Junior Administrative Grade level.

Capital Punishment for Drug Trafficking

*300. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent statement, Shri B. V. Kumar, Member of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (Anti-smuggling and Narcotics) has disclosed that some politicians involved in drug-trafficking have been identified, as reported in the Times of India of the 31st October, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide for capital punishment for drug trafficking; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the officer, on 30-10-1988, after he addressed a press conference in Pune to highlight the steps taken by the Government to check drug trafficking, one of the Correspondents reportedly asked whether there was any political interference while dealing with narcotic offences to which the officer had replied that there was no such interference. It, however, appears that his statement has been distorted and misreported.

(c) A Bill for amending the existing provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, incorporating certain provisions in this regard is likely to be introduced in the Parliament shortly.

Customs Duty

2403. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be

pleased to refer to the Budget Speech (1988-89) Point 177(f) where special mention was made of raising Customs Duty on Customs Tariff Item 2208.10 as an anti-evasion matter and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no items are being imported under Tariff Item 3302.10 which has a much lower rate of import duty;

(b) whether Government propose to consider raising the import duty on 3302.10 to the level of 2208.10 as an anti-evasion measure; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Import of items falling under sub-heading No. 3302.10 of the Customs Tariff is insignificant. The level of import of these items does not indicate that there is any evasion warranting corrective action by way of increasing the duty to the level of duty applicable to items falling under sub-heading No. 2208.10 of the Customs Tariff.

Export of Cotton from Andhra Pradesh

2404. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the quality and quantity of cotton exported from Andhra Pradesh and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby during 1985 to 1988, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to find out new markets for export of cotton; and

(c) if so what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd. exported about 7,000 bales of cotton valued at Rs. 2.08 crores in 1985-86. There were no exports by the Federation in 1986-87 and 1987-88.

(b) and (c) The exports of cotton have been traditionally to Japan, South Korea, Hongkong, Poland etc. In 1986-87, new markets were developed in Turkey, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Belgium etc.

Customs Duty on Computers

2405. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the customs duty on computers, computer systems and peripherals;

(b) whether it is a fact that computer systems for educational and research institutions have to bear 98 per cent duty instead of zero per cent;

(c) whether the same duty rate holds good for the Super Computer; and

(d) whether Government propose to waive the duty for producing computer systems for educational institutions and producing super-computer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The import duty on computers, computer systems and peripherals is 90 per cent ad-valorem. The same rate is applicable in the case of computer systems for educational institutions. However, research institutions not engaged in any commercial activity can import computer systems duty-free in terms of notification No. 70/81-Customs dated the 28th March, 1981.